

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 061300Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5931
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
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AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 4625

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR PARM SALT UR US
SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR POST-MORTEM VANCE VISIT

BEGIN SUMMARY. YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR REPORTS SOVIETS FOUND
OUR SALT DEEP REDUCTION PROPOSAL "OUTRAGEOUS," AND WERE
IMPELLED BY PRESIDENT CARTER'S MARCH 30 PRESS CONFERENCE
TO MOUNT GROMYKO'S EXTRAORDINARY REBUTTAL WHICH
WAS LEGALISTIC AND PATRONIZING. SOVIETS MAY ATTEMPT
TO PREEMPT US WITH PROPAGANDA SPECTACULARS IN FUTURE
ROUNDS. SOVIETS MUCH LESS SPECIFIC ON EIGHT "WORKING
GROUPS" THAN WE ARE. END SUMMARY.

1. IN HIS APRIL 5 CALL ON ME, YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR SMOLE
WHO IS WELL INFORMED ON LOCAL SCENE, SAID HIS SOVIET CONTACTS HAD
CHARACTERIZED OUR SALT PROPOSAL FOR DEEP CUTS AS "OUTRAGEOUS" FOR
THEY WOULD HEAVILY AFFECT VITAL SOVIET SECURITY INTERESTS. RE-
SPONDING ALONG THE LINES OF RATIONALE SO ABLY ARTICULATED BY
BREZEZINSKI IN HIS APRIL 1 PRESS CONFERENCE, I SAID WE WERE
DISAPPOINTED AT THE SOVIETS' OUTRIGHT REJECTION, BUT HOPED THAT AFTER
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CAREFUL CONSIDERATION THE SOVIETS WOULD AT LEAST OFFER A COUNTER-
PROPOSAL BY THE TIME OF THE GENEVA MEETING OF GROMYKO AND SECRETARY
VANCE.

2. ON THE QUESTION OF THE EIGHT WORKING GROUPS, SMOLE SAID HIS
SOVIET CONTACTS WERE FAR LESS SPECIFIC THAN WE WERE. I ANSWERED
THAT WE CONSIDERED WE HAD AT LEAST A SOVIET COMMITMENT

TO EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON EIGHT SUBJECTS ALTHOUGH PRECISE MODALITIES NOT SPECIFIED. (DEPUTY CHIEF OF MFA'S INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DEPT. TIMERBAYEV TOLD POL COUNSELOR APRIL 6 HIS IMPRESSION WAS IT WAS UP TO US SIDE TO MAKE FOLLOW-UP PROPOSALS RE WORKING GROUPS.)

3. SMOLE SAID THE SOVIETS HAD BEEN GENUINELY SHOCKED--AT LEAST HIS INTERLOCUTORS TOLD HIM SO--THAT PRESIDENT HAD HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE ON MARCH 30 WHICH STOLE THEIR THUNDER, EVEN BEFORE VANCE HAD DEPARTED MOSCOW, FORCING THEM TO STAGE THE EXTRAORDINARY GROMYKO PRESS CONFERENCE IN REBUTTAL. FACT WAS, HOWEVER, GROMYKO WAS A DAY LATE AND HAD MADE, IN SMOLE'S VIEW, TWO SERIOUS ERRORS: (A) HIS ARGUMENTATION AGAINST DEEP REDUCTION WAS TOO LEGALISTIC FOR WORLD EAGER TO WITNESS GENUINE DISARMAMENT BY SUPER POWERS; (B) HIS INSISTENCE THAT THE SOVIETS HAD ALWAYS TAKEN THE LEAD ON DISARMAMENT PROPOSALS SOUNDED PATRONIZING, AS IF SOVIETS FELT THEY HAD EXCLUSIVE PROPRIETARY RIGHTS. IN ANY EVENT, SMOLE BELIEVES THAT THE WHOLE EXERCISE MAY HAVE HAD A PROFOUND IMPACT ON WHAT HE TERMED FUTURE SOVIET "INFORMATIONAL PRACTICE," IMPLYING THAT IN FUTURE TALKS WE MAY SEE PREEMPTIVE SOVIET PROPAGANDA SPECTACULARS.
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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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Subject: YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR POST-MORTEM VANCE VISIT BEGIN SUMMARY. YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR REPORTS SOVIETS FOUND OUR SALT DEEP REDUCTION PROPOSAL "OUTRAGEOUS," AND
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